Pay of the Headmasters of the Industrial Schools.

142. Mr. Joseph Pettah—Will the Government be pleased to state on what basis are the Headmasters of the Industrial Schools in the State classified into different grades?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—On the same basis on which different grades have been fixed for teachers in Literary Schools and for other officers.

Personal Deposit Account for Industrial Schools.

143.—Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Headmasters of the Industrial Schools in the State are not authorised to have a personal deposit account directly with the treasury, up to a maximum of Rs. 1,000;

(b) whether the Headmasters of the Industrial Schools in the State are not authorised to draw pay bills for themselves and for the teachers under them;

(c) whether the said Headmasters are given a full time clerk each, with School Final qualification;

(d) whether any such responsibilities or privileges, as referred to in (a), (b) and (c) above, are given to Headmasters of the Anglo-Vernacular Primary or Lower Secondary Schools?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) Government Industrial Schools have personal deposit accounts up to a maximum of Rs. 1,000 placed with treasury; but the drawings from them are subject to the specific sanction of the Director of Public Instruction and on bills either passed or countersigned by him.

(b) Yes; but these bills require the countersignature of the Industrial Inspector before encashment.

(c) No.

(d) There is no necessity for Personal Deposit account in Anglo-Vernacular Primary or Lower Secondary Schools. The heads of the Lower Secondary Schools draw pay bills for themselves and for the teachers under them, while in the case of Primary Schools the bills are drawn by the Inspecting Officers and endorsed in favour of the heads of schools who receive direct payment from the treasury.

Village Officers as candidates for elections and Tahsildars as polling officers.

144. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there have been instances of Village Officers being candidates where Tahsildars were the polling officers;

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(b) do the Government think that this arrangement is conducive to unfettered exercise of the franchise in rural areas?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—(a) Yes.

(b) This does not cause any hindrance to the free exercise of the franchise.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—(b) I never asked whether there was any hindrance or not.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The question means that.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—It does not mean that.

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—That word 'unfettered' was meant to mean that.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—May I know whether this would hinder in any way the free exercise of the vote of the people?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—The exercise of the franchise is freely exercised by the people. We have never seen any fetterment on account of this.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The Village Parvathiakaran occupies a place of influence and power; is it not so?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—He is considered to be so.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Therefore he is in a position of vantage as a result of the Government position he occupies.

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—Yes. But not in the presence of the Tahsildar.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—He is a man of influence of the locality due to the position that he occupies as a Government servant.

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—He used to have some position, but now-a-days people don't care for the Village Parvathiam.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Therefore he occupies this position of vantage and the Tahsildar sitting as the polling officer would not be likely to put any difficulties in his way. Is it not a possibility?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—On the contrary the possibility is otherwise. His ordinary influence may be restricted by the presence of the Tahsildar.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether in the matter of identification of these voters that come there, the village officers play any part?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—That is not in the question there.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I believe the President will decide whether I can ask the supplementary question or not.

President.—Yes, you may ask the question.

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—Sometimes their assistance is called upon to identify the vote.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—In such case will not

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village officers standing as candidates and the Tahsildar as the polling officer, be of some advantage to the officer concerned?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—Government do not think so.

Road connecting Mulakunnathukavu—Mundur Road and Attamkal—Mundathikode Road.

145. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the inhabitants of the Velappayi Village had not petitioned the Registrar of Village Panchayats requesting for a road connection between the Mulakunnathukavu—Mundoor Road and the Attamkal—Mundathikode Road through Survey Nos. 55, 56 and 44 of the Velappayi Village;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a footpath that the villagers were using along these survey numbers has been blocked up by the owners concerned;

(c) has the Government any idea as to what amount will be required for giving this village a pathway as desired?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes; about Rs. 275—0—0.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—(b) In view of the footpath being blocked up will the Government be pleased to open this road which will cost them only 275 rupees?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—It was blocked up a year back. There is no such complaint now. If it recurs then it will be considered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is the way that is blocked up open now?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—I presume so.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Have you any information?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—I have information that there is no complaint now.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—My question is whether the road that is blocked up is now open or not?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—I have no information. I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will this road costing only Rs. 275 be taken up as an urgent item of work to be executed by the Panchayat?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—If the road to the school is not more important, this will be taken up.

Improvement of a well in Chittanda village.

146. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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